



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Blue Ridge Parkway
199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

SCOPING NOTICE

Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service is in the process of preparing a fire management plan (FMP) and environmental assessment (EA) for the Blue Ridge Parkway. The purpose of this scoping notice is to advise you of the FMP/EA process and to request a list of issues, concerns, and species that should be addressed in the plans.

Issues and Concerns

The FMP/EA will evaluate both our fire suppression program and the use of fire for the benefit of our biological resources. An important part of our assessment will evaluate prescribed fire to maintain:

- ☐ rare plant species, especially those for which there is evidence that fire is a sustaining factor,
- ☐ xeric *Pinus pungens* (Table Mountain pine) sites, and
- ☐ wetland areas where canopy closure threatens plant and animal communities.

We may also evaluate mechanical methods to reduce fuel loading around Parkway developments.

Timeline

We expect to have a draft plan and environmental assessment completed by late summer or early fall. The FMP/EA will be made available for public review and comment. The final plan is tentatively scheduled for winter 2002.

Comments

Please mail comments by **May 15** to:

Bob Cherry, Biologist
Blue Ridge Parkway
5580 Shulls Mill Road
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Bob Cherry by phone at 828-295-7591 between 8:00 and 4:30 Monday through Friday or email at Bob_Cherry@nps.gov.